(b) The roles, responsibilities and work schedules of the doctors and nurses are well defined. Insofar as Junior Residents are concerned, they are responsible for work up of the patients and day-to-day monitoring of the patient care activities in wards, OPD and casualty departments. The Senior Residents besides patient care responsibility also supervise the work of Junior Residents. The faculty has the overall responsibility for different clinical departments in all the areas of patient care including OT services in surgical disciplines. The faculty and Senior Residents divide their time for teaching, research and patient care, depending upon exigencies of work.

(c) to (d) The Government is not aware of such practice. The faculty goes abroad to attend seminars, workshop for their professional development, and foreign assignment only with prior permission of the competent authority.

(e) The efforts to further improve the functioning of AIIMS is an ongoing exercise and suitable steps have been taken from time to time in this regard.

Hepatitis-B Vaccination

†4752. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are satisfied with the progress of polio Eradication Campaign being run in the country;

(b) whether Government are aware of the fact that a number of children are deprived of the Hepatitis-B Vaccine in the country despite of its being very essential for the children;

(c) if so, whether Government are considering to run Hepatitis-B vaccination campaign together with the Polio Eradication Camp with the help of State Governments; and

(d) if so, whether Government would consider to contact the WHO for the financial assistance for the success of the campaign?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. Government is satisfied with the progress of Polio Eradication Campaign being run in the country. There has been a significant decline in the number of polio cases over the past years. The number of cases has declined steadily

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

from 1600 in the year 2002 to 225 in 2003 to 136 in 2004. During 2005 (till 23rd April) only 14 cases of polio have been reported in the country.

(b) to (d) The Hepatitis B is not included in National Immunization Programme. However, a pilot Project on Hepatitis B is being implemented in 33 districts and 15 cities spread all over the country with support of GAVI (Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunology). Under this programme three doses of Hepatitis B vaccines is given along with DPT at an interval of 406 weeks to children 6,10 and 14 weeks old. Thus it is a part of the Routine Immunization Programme. Hence the question of Hepatitis B vaccination campaign together with Polio Eradication campaign does not arise.

Revision of passenger fares

4753. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways have made adequate provision for meeting the additional cost of diesel it consumes, which works out to almost Rs. 2.5000 crores a year;

(b) whether the volatility of crude prices, currently ruling, would have any impact on the fuel bill commitments of Railways for the year 2004-05; and.

(c) if so, .whether the Railways would propose upward revision of passenger fares?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. During 2004-05, the price of diesel was increased thrice and the combined impact of these increases for that year was assessed at around Rs. 550 crore. The same has been fully provided for in the estimates for the fiscal year without any increase in passenger fares.

Rail lines to improve the supply of coal to thermal plants

4754. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the thermal generation has increased manifold but no additional railway lines have been laid to carry coal to these high coal consumption centres with the result that the thermal stations are running on a power supplies for 4-6 days;